

Industry-Funded Northeast Fisheries Scallop Observer Program Call-In Guide

For Limited Access (Open Area and Access Area trips) and General Category (Access Area trips)

These guidelines are only valid until Framework 19 to the Scallop Plan is implemented.

STEP I - DECLARE EACH TRIP 72 HOURS* PRIOR TO TRIP

* Once you make the initial call, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) may take up to 24 hours to inform you if you have been selected for observer coverage. **THEN, if selected, you MUST provide 72 hours notice to the observer provider.**

Please call the NE Fisheries Scallop Observer Program Number at **(508) 495-2100**, press 1 to report a trip, and follow the telephone message prompts:

Gear type - press 1 for scallop dredge, 2 for scallop trawl

Limited Access/General Category - press 1 for limited access, 2 for general category

Area Fishing - press 1 for NLSA, 2 for CAII, ~~3 for HCA~~, 4 for MA Open, 5 for GB Open, 6 for ET, 7 for CAI
(Hudson Canyon reverts to an open area on March 1, 2008, so LA trips to that area would be considered "Mid-Atlantic Open Area".)

Phone number - press keys for the 10 digit phone number (DO NOT use '1' before the area code)

Permit number - press keys for the 6 digit permit number

Name - speak clearly, first and last name, then press # key

Port sailing from - speak clearly, port name including city and state, then press # key

Date of sailing - speak clearly, month, day, year; then press # key

*You will receive a **trip confirmation number**. An email transmission from NMFS will be sent to the email addresses provided within 24 hours and will either issue a 'waiver' or notify you that an observer must be hired for the trip. You may begin your trip if you are issued a waiver.*

STEP II - TO HIRE AN OBSERVER

If you receive an email from NMFS that you must hire an observer for the trip, please call the providers below. For the most current list of approved observer service providers, go to the 'Sea Scallop Observer Program Information' webpage at <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/> or call the NE Fisheries Scallop Observer Program Number, and press 2. There are currently two providers:

A.I.S. Inc. (508) 990-9057; and East West Technical Services (860) 223-5165.

If after contacting the approved providers and there are no observers available within 72 hours, please call the **NMFS Vessel Call-in Coordinator at (508) 495-2188** to request a waiver.

IF THE SAIL DATE IS DELAYED

If the trip is delayed for more than 48 hours beyond the intended sail date, please call **(508) 495-2188** to request a new sailing date or to cancel the trip. If you are going to be delayed by more than a week, please cancel the original trip and begin the process again with the 72 hour notice before sailing. If you had an observer assigned and you canceled the trip, you must take an observer on your next trip, unless no observers are available.

TO CHANGE INTENDED FISHING AREA

If you change the Area you plan to fish, please call the NE Fisheries Scallop Observer Program Number at **(508) 495-2100** again for a new confirmation number, and call **(508) 495-2188** cancel the original trip.

FOR TRIPS THAT LAYOVER IN PORT

If you must interrupt an open area trip and return to port, for example due to weather, **do not offload your catch**, and go back out within 48 hours, you may use the same confirmation number and maintain the same observer status. If any catch is offloaded or the layover time is greater than 48 hours, please call the NE Fisheries Scallop Observer Program Number at **(508) 495-2100** when you intend to go back out fishing.

This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. The full text of the regulations is available at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov> or call the Northeast Regional Office at (978) 281-9315.

Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, February 21, 2008